



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **Lincoln man gets 30 years in prison for producing and possessing child pornography**

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – A 58-year-old man who took pornographic photos of a minor child was sentenced to 30 years in prison today for producing and possessing child pornography, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott sentenced Howard D. Pinkley to 30 years in federal prison for making and possessing child pornography. A hearing has been scheduled for Sept. 18 to determine final restitution to be paid by Pinkley to victims of the offenses. Following today's hearing, Pinkley was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Pinkley pleaded guilty Jan. 30 to producing and possessing child pornography. He was charged after ICE agents were notified in November 2005 of pornographic photos of an unidentified child that were developed at a processing facility in Crawfordsville, Ind., as part of an order placed by Pinkley at a Wal-Mart in Lincoln. Pinkley admitted that from November 2003 through Nov. 10, 2005, he enticed a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct to produce child pornography, and that he possessed books, videotapes, computer images and other materials containing child pornography.

U.S. Attorney Rodger A. Heaton stated, "The Department of Justice has made protection of children one of its highest priorities through the Project Safe Childhood initiative. Today's 30-year sentence is a testament to our unwavering commitment to punish and remove child predators from society for as long as the law allows."

"We've made it an agency priority to stop sexual predators from abusing and exploiting innocent children," said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Chicago. "ICE is committed to protecting those who cannot protect themselves, and the victims of child sexual predators are the top of that list."

The case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Childress.

This case falls under ICE's nationwide initiative known as [Operation Predator](#). Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 8,400 individuals arrested nationwide, including more than 433 in Illinois.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*